climate favouring crime except transferring or pressurizing or sending out officers? What action was taken to change this mind-set which has really created the problem?

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN: Sir, in this House, we are supposed to reply to the question of an hon. Member if he is not aware of the same. Jagmohan Ji has been the governor of Delhi and he knows fully well as to what is happening in Delhi.

SHRI JAGMOHAN: This is exactly my point.

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN: Mr. Jagmohan Ji, are you not aware of this and are you seeking information from me? *(Interruptions)*

SHRI JAGMOHAN: I was saying that the Government was aware of all these things. In spite of the timely warnings which are all on record, nothing has been done. This will create a climate of criminality and there will be defiance of law and this will go in every sphere of society. Whatever functionary I was then, I had been duly warning. My point is that now the Government has to answer this question. Supposing even I was at fault then, you have to answer for my lapses also. But the only point which I know and everybody knows is that this happened not because of me but in spite of me.

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN: Sir, fortunately or unfortunately, I have to accept that there are a large number of unauthorised constructions in Delhi, which, as the hon. Member is saying, is definitely leading to some kind of criminal activities also. I would not be surprised, though I don't have any evidence about it. If money laundering is there, there are bound to be other criminal activities which are associated with it. I cannot deny it.

श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज: मैं गृह मंत्री जी से जानना चाहती हूं कि अभी कुछ दिन पहले इस आशय का एक समाचार भी समाचारपत्र में छपा था कि गृह मंत्री जी ने स्वयं पुलिस कमिश्नर को निर्देश देकर कहा कि इस केस में कुछ और राजनेताओं के नाम खोजने की, डिगआउट करने की कोशिश न की जाए, केवल मामला सुशील शर्मा तक ही रखा जाए। मैं जानना चाहती हूं कि उनका अपना नाम आने वाला नहीं था फिर उन्होंने ऐसे निर्देश क्यों दिये?

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN: I contradict the statement by the hon. Member with all the force at my command. I have never given instructions to the Police Commissioner about this matter. On the other hand, I have given instructions to the Police Commissioner that, "whosoever might try to bring pressure on you, you have to stand very firm and take action against all those who are responsible". I am sorry that such kind of a report should appear in the newspapers. It is totally false.

Shortage of Wagons

*42. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:†
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railways is faced with severe shortage of wagons;

(b) if so, the details and reasons therefor; and

(c) steps being taken to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) No. Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र: सभापति महोदय, मंत्री महोदय ने डिनाई किया है कि सिरियस वैगन क्राइसेज नहीं है मैं समझता हूं he is doing dis-service to the nation. I am reading out some of the news headlines. The headline of *Business Times* dated 15th July, 1995, "Wagon shortage: 5.4 lakh tonnes urea still piled up"—this is for your information Mr. Minister another daily "Railway bottleneck hits steel plants" and I quote:

†The Question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Chaturanan Mishra.

"According to Steel Ministry sources, the finished stocks that have piled up at the Durgapur, Bhilai, Bokaro and Rourkela steel plants include 3,63,000 tonnes of saleable steel and 1,03,700 tonnes of pig iron."

This is about steel. Now I come to coal another daily "Railway wagon shortage hits coal movement" and I quote:

"The Railways are presently facing a severe shortage of wagons adversely affecting the coal movement to the non-core sectors of the industry. The allotment of rakes for loading continues to be substantially lower than the offer in most of the coalfields linked to non-core industries."

Now, again I am reading about the foodgrains. I had personally seen it, Sir, during my visit to Punjab. I saw that thousands of bags lying in open area. I am reading another daily paper "Lack of wagons hits FCI move to export grain". All these things are there. But to save time, when the Minister has completely denied that there is no severe crisis of wagons, I think the Minister is sick of not only for the Congress Party work but also the Ministry work. In view of this, I request the Government to agree to my suggestion, which I will put in a question form. I would like to know whether he will form a House Committee to inquire into this matter and find out if there is a severe wagon shortage in the country or not. That is my only question. The others will be put by my Bengal friends, who have been raising this question all along.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: There are other friends also.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: I have said that they have been raising this question all along not once or twice as you have been raising.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: I have also been raising.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please, no.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: You have been raising it occasionaly. I have said that they have been doing it continuously.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You don't have to answer it.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: My point is this. I would like to know whether the Minister is prepared to constitute a Parliamentary Committee to go into this matter because it is a very serious matter.

SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF: The hon. Member, Shri Chaturanan Mishra, has pointed out that there is a shortage of wagons. Sir, I have also seen these Press reports regarding shortage of wagons. So far as the coal sector is concerned, it is being monitored not only by the Railways, but also by the Secretary (Coordination) in the Cabinet Secretariat who repeatedly conducts meetings of all sectors where the responsibility is fixed and the movement is made. I have not received any complaint from any agency or any sector, as the hon. Member just pointed out, regarding shortage of wagons, except from one or two Chief Ministers saying that wagons are required for foodgrain movement. It is not the question of shortage of wagons. The question is, sometimes spurt movement demand comes and loading and unloading also becomes a problem. We carry that, but they do not release wagons quickly. This kind of blockage of wagons which hampers the movement of wagons also comes in the way and it creates a kind of situation where it looks as if there is a really a shortage of wagons.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: This was not my question. My question was this. Would the Minister agree that a House committee should be set up to inquire into this serious matter? Mr. Minister, either you say 'yes' or you say 'no'. That is up to you. That was my question.

SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF: I don't think it is really required. So far as the wagon procurement is concerned, the Railways has already made a provision in

the budget for the procurement of 12,000 wagons on its own and another 12,000 wagons under 'BOLT' scheme. In addition to that, recently we have taken a decision, not because of the wagon shortage and all that but because generation of power now is being taken seriously by every State and there is the possibility of more demands for coal movement and other things either from the coal mines or from the collieries. We, on our own, without even any demand from the wagon industry—the wagon industry was damanding some orders—keeping in mind the future requirements, have taken a decision to procure 7,000 additional wagons. In my opinion, there is absolutely no need to set up a Parliamentary Committee to go into this question. However, if the House feels so, I have no objection to it.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, you put it to the House. The Minister has said, "If the House so agrees". Sir, you put this question to the House. The House may agree to it. It will facilitate him. Sir, it is up to you.

SHRI SUNDER SINGH BHANDARI: Sir, Committee should be appointed.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Sir, everybody is saying so.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister, do you agree that a Committee should be appointed?

SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF: Sir, I have already said that it is not required. Sir, in my opinion, there is no such crisis. It is not such a big thing.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, we all feel that there is a need for a Committee to inquire into it. The Mid-Term Plan Appraisal report also made a comment on it. There is need for a House Committee to go into it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am in favour of a Committee being appointed, if you have no objection. Shri Gurudas Das Gupta.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Sir, Mishraji has given me a chance to put two supplementaries.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Only one.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the point is that the Minister is playing with facts. I cannot say that the hon. Minister is misleading the House, but I can say he is playing with facts.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): Mr. Chairman, I wish to interrupt him for a movement. If it has been decided to form a House Committee...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister has agreed to it.

SHRI P. UPENDRA: Sir, there is a prescribed procedure for constituting a House Committee. You need not commit in the House immediately. You can consider the matter and take a decision.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Mr. Chairman, you have already made an announcement in the House regarding this...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Mr. Upendra, no body has asked for your advice...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI P. UPENDRA: I have not advised you...*(Interruptions)*... I am giving my view point...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Mr. Chairman, may I make a submission? The hon. Chairman has said that taking into consideration the sense of the House, a House Committee may be appointed to enquire into this matter. Since he has said like that, it should be adhered to...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Since the Minister has also agreed to this, the prescribed procedure will be set in motion in course of time...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: A decision has already been taken in that re-

gard... *(Interruptions)*...Since a decision has been taken to constitute a House Committee, I would like to tell the hon. Minister of Railways that he is not speaking the truth because even his own colleague, the Minister of State for Steel, while speaking to a number of Members of Parliament who called on him recently, stated categorically—and this came out in the Press also—that there was non-availability of wagons for inward and outward movements and also to and from different steel plants. He also told the Members that the Monitoring Committee on Infrastructure, taking this problem into consideration, had directed the Minister concerned to take a long-term perspective of the problem. I am saying this only to show that the hon. Minister is playing with facts. Therefore, what he says is only* and not a fact. Your decision to constitute a House Committee, therefore, is all the more appropriate and such a Committee will bring out the facts.

SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF: Mr. Chairman, this is very unfair. I don't know what the Steel Minister has said. So far as I am concerned, I have made it very clear that there is no such kind of a situation. We have been catering to the needs of all the sectors. I have also said that the Co-ordination Committee of the Cabinet is monitoring this. Except one or two Chief Ministers who complained against the scarcity of wagons for movement of foodgrains, no other sector has complained to me about the shortage of wagons to meet its requirements.

When the demand came that a House Committee should look into the matter, I had agreed to it in good faith. After all the House is supreme to everybody. It can look into any matter. I have, therefore, agreed to it. Now, Mr. Gurudas Das Gupta has started saying that it is not a fact and that is.* It appears to me that they want a House Committee to add colour to the issue. If the very objective of the demand is...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: It is colourless...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF: Sir, the spirit is which I agreed to the constitution of a House Committee—and you also graciously agreed to it—is defeated now. The demand is not made with sincerity. The purpose is only to add colour because elections are near and they can go back and get publicity in the newspapers by saying something else. I am sorry to say that if this is the spirit, the very purpose will be defeated. It is not for genuine requirement of wagons. It could be for some other reasons that a House Committee might be required.

THE LEADER OF THE HOUSE (SHRI S.B. CHAVAN): Mr. Chairman may I submit one thing? The word* which he has used should not form part of the record. If the replies given by the Minisers are found to be incorrect, they can certainly move a privilege motion against them. But they cannot say that it is*

SHRI GURUDAS GUPTA: *Is a part of parliamentary language. The word *is never unparlimentary...*(Interruptions)*... The word* is never said to be unparliamentary...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. BIPLAB DAS GUPTA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the word* is not unparliamentary...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI V. NARYANASAMY: Sir, he is attributing motives to the Minister...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: I Have not attributed any motives to him...*(Interruptions)*...What I said is that* is*

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Sir, he says that the Minister is not speaking the

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

truth...*(Interruptions)*...If the information given by the Minister is incorrect, he can always move a privilege motion against him...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Sir, the Minister has said something. If the Member feels that he has given him wrong information, he can move a privilege motion against him. But he cannot say that he is not speaking the truth...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Sir, Mr Dasgupta has said that the Minister is not speaking the truth. This is absurd...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: I am not to leard English from my hon. colleague. I am ready to learn law from her, but not English. the word* is part of the parliamentary language.

SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF: If this is what they say, I am not prepared to agree. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: You are criticising the Minister. *(Interruptions)* You are imputing motives to the Minister. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Yes, I do that. If it is so, I impute the motive. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF: Sir, if this is what he says, then...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now that the Minister has agreed and the House has agreed for a Parliamentary Committee, I think we need not discuss it further. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Sir, the expression* must not be removed from the record. *(Interruptions)*

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF: Sir, Mr. Gurudas Das Gupta said, "Yes, I do impute motive". Is it fair? *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has agreed to your demand very willingly and so after that no such instnuation is called for. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: It is no instnuation, Sir. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Sir, the word* has to be removed from the record. *(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Sir, it should not form part of the record. *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, it will not be part of the record. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Sir, the word* is part of parliamentary utterance.

MR. CHAIRMAN: But it is attributing motive ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: In any case, the word* may be Parliamentary or it may be unparliamentary, but since it has created friction, it should go....*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, though he said that he did impute motives, he might have imputed noble motives! ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think the Minister has very willingly agreed to your suggestion for a Parliamentary Committee. There is no room for attributing motives after that. ...*(Interruptions)*...Yes, Mr. Nilotpal Basu

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Sir, it is very clear...*(Interruptions)*... I think, already a *prime facie* case of shortage of wagons has been established on the basis

of which everybody has agreed that there will be a House Committee. My question relates to the procurement policy of the Government which has led to this shortage of wagons. Now, earlier also, with reference to another question, the Minister had pointed out that the new policy of open tendering for 50% of the total wagon procurement was reducing the cost or price of wagons for the Railway Ministry. Now, while I am not challenging that, I would like to ask the Minister whether HDC, a private company which got the order for 2,000 wagons during 1994-95, has supplied only 750 wagons till 30.6.95, whereas it was supposed to supply this entire lot of 2,000 wagons by 31.3.1995.

SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF: Sir, I don't think I have those figures about individual concerns. The question itself is general in nature. But I will...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Sir, why are his officers not acting? Why are they not sending any information? They should send their slips. Yes, be quick.

SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF: The HDC order was for 1,440 and up to 30th June it supplied about 700 wagons.

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Sir, he has admitted that out of an order of 2,000, only 700 have been supplied . So, Sir, my request is that in the terms of reference of that House Committee, procurement should also be included as part of the study on the shortage of wagons...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF: We will not agree to all these things.

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

Privatisation of Jawahar Lal Nehru Port Trust

*43. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal under consideration to privatise Jawahar Lal Nehru Port Trust; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the table of the Rajya Sabha.

Statement

(a) Yes Sir.

(b) The following proposals have already been approved "in principle" by the Government:—

(i) Procurement of additional container handling equipments on lease from private parties (First Stream of Equipment already procured).

(ii) Invitation of global tenders for setting up of a Marine Chemical Terminal.

(iii) Invitation of global tenders for construction of two additional container berths on BOT basis and licensing its operation and maintenance for a period of 15 years (including construction period).

(iv) Lands have been allotted to private parties for setting up of Tank Farms to handle 'B' and 'C' Class chemicals to the extent of about 4.0 million tonnes annually.

In addition to above, it is also proposed:—

(i) To licence the operation and maintenance of the existing container terminal for a period of 15 years.